

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24614 01 OF 02 231951Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-10 /112 W
----- 085515

R 231830Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3412

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24614

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, FR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TINDERMAN'S INTERVIEW IN LE
MONDE - SEPTEMBER 22

1. BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER LEO TINDEMANS IS VISITING
PARIS DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 21 - 23. HE WILL MEET
WITH VARIOUS OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE FIGURES AS PART OF
MISSION ASSIGNED HIM DURING 1974 PARIS SUMMIT TO DEFINE
A "TOTAL CONCEPTION OF EUROPEAN UNION". FOLLOWING ARE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 24614 01 OF 02 231951Z

MAJOR POINTS MADE BY TINDEMANS DURING INTERVIEW WHICH

APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 22 LE MONDE.

2. HIS SCHEDULE -- TINDEMANS OPENED THE INTERVIEW BY OBSERVING THAT OF THE FIGURES WHOM HE HAD APPROACHED ONLY COMMUNIST LEADER GEORGES MARCHAIS HAD REFUSED HIS REQUEST FOR A MEETING. MARCHAIS' REFUSAL WAS BASED, TINDEMANS SAID, "ON A DISTORTED CONCEPTION" OF HIS MISSION. TINDEMANS CONTRASTED MARCHAIS' ATTITUDE BY NOTING THAT OTHER LEFTISTS AND TRADE UNION FIGURES INCLUDING FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, CGT, CFDT LEADERS, AS WELL AS ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SPOKESMAN HAD AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM.

3. STATE OF THE UNION -- TINDEMANS SAID THAT AFTER 20 YEARS OF TALK A VALID DEFINITION OF EUROPEAN UNION REMAINED TO BE FOUND. SUCH A DEFINITION WAS THE PURPOSE OF HIS CURRENT MISSION, A MISSION WHICH UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD ONLY BE SEEN AS "CHANCY" (UNE GAGEURE). THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL IN EUROPE. BALANCE OF PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES ARE MAKING PROTECTIONISM INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE AND THREATEN TO UNDO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED. A CRISIS OF THIS SORT, HOWEVER, CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY IF SEIZED. WHAT IS REQUIRED NOW, TINDEMANS SAID, IS A EUROPEAN "LEAP FORWARD" TOWARD FURTHER INTEGRATION.

4. THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE -- TINDEMANS VIEWED CURRENT AMERICAN PREPONDERANCE IN TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS AS AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR ARGUING FOR INCREASED INTEGRATION. HE TURNED ASIDE CHARGES THAT BELGIUM HAD WORSENED THE SITUATION BY OPTING FOR AN AMERICAN ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT RATHER THAN THE MIRAGE. THE MIRAGE, TINDEMANS POINTED OUT, WAS NOT A EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT. IF THE DASSAULT ENTRY HAD BEEN THE PRODUCT OF A EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM, THEN PERHAPS THE ISSUE WOULD HAVE BEEN DECIDED IN ITS FAVOR. IT IS NOT TOO LATE, EVEN NOW, TO SET UP A EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY, TINDEMANS SAID.

5. DEFENSE -- EUROPEAN SECURITY, TO BE VIABLE, MUST BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 24614 01 OF 02 231951Z

BASED ON NATO. TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE, TINDEMANS CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENT OF THE EUROGROUP TO PROMOTE WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS. TINDEMANS AGREED THAT THE WEU OR ANOTHER EC BASED ORGANIZATION COULD, PERHAPS, PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR STANDARDIZATION AND COORDINATION. BUT HE NOTED THAT THE RECENT FRENCH PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES CAME ONLY DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE F104 REPLACEMENT COMPETITION AND THUS

WAS TOO LATE TO BE OF USE. TINDEMANS ALSO AGREED THAT WHILE NATO WILL REMAIN THE BASIS FOR WESTERN SECURITY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, EUROPE MUST RETAIN ITS "RIGHT" TO AN INDEPENDENT SECURITY FORCE. BUT SUCH A FORCE PRESUPPOSES SOME SORT OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL AUTHORITY. TINDEMANS SAW THE IDEAL EUROPEAN/AMERICAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP IN TERMS OF THE KENNEDY FORMULA OF "EQUAL PARTNERSHIPS." SUCH INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WILL REQUIRE UPDATING OF THE ORIGINAL TREATY OF ROME, HE SAID.

6. POSSIBLE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES -- TINDEMANS

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24614 02 OF 02 231839Z

67

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24614

DISAGREED WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER BRANDT'S PROPOSAL THAT CERTAIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOULD TEMPORARILY BE RELEASED FROM THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EC TREATY SHOULD THEIR INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONS SLOW THEIR ABILITY TO MOVE TOWARD FURTHER INTEGRATION. HE DID NOT RULE OUT, HOWEVER, AGREEMENT AMONG CERTAIN MEMBERS TO PROCEED MORE RAPIDLY THAN OTHERS TOWARD INTEGRATION. TINDEMANS SAID THAT DE GAULLE'S 1969 PROPOSAL FOR A RESTRICTED POLICY DIRECTORSHIP WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BELGIAN AND OTHER SMALLER COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 24614 02 OF 02 231839Z

7. THE FUTURE -- COMPLETE EUROPEAN UNION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY 1980. HOWEVER, MUCH CAN STILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THIS DATE. IT IS A QUESTION OF WILL, TINDEMANS SAID, AND A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EUROPEAN NATIONS WILL SEE THEIR CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AS A REASON FOR INCREASED INTEGRATION. SUCH INTEGRATION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE AREAS OF MONETARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY. FOR TINDEMANS, THE ABSENCE OF MONETARY REFORM WAS SLOWING ECONOMIC REVIVAL. MONETARY COORDINATION WAS AS NECESSARY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS IT WAS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AS CALLED FOR BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

8. COPIES OF INTERVIEW POUCHED ADDRESSEES.
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